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Matrix Explorer 760

By Matthew Thomas

It's always interesting to follow the pedigree of a new yacht and Matrix Yachts' latest addition to their range, the Explorer 760, is a progression of their highly successful Silhouette 760, which was the first yacht the company built.

After a successful career running charter yachts in the Caribbean, Peter and Fiona Wehrley, together with their son Mark, returned to South Africa with a clear vision to build large, luxury charter catamarans, suited for either upmarket charter operations or private use. With their extensive sailing experience and meticulous attention to detail, the Silhouette 760 was created. This innovative and stylish catamaran immediately turned heads with her flowing lines and quality construction and she received numerous international awards.

Having produced three Silhouette 760s, a large day charter company in the Seychelles approached Peter about taking the Silhouette and building it as a luxury day sail catamaran. Always up for a challenge, the Matrix team created the Mirage 760, closely based on the Silhouette, but optimised for the day charter market.

While delivering the yachts to the Seychelles, it was decided that there might be a market for an adventure-based version of the yacht, based on the Mirage platform (which is a little narrower than the Silhouette), but optimised to be a live-aboard dive boat or expedition yacht.

With this in mind, the foredeck master cabin was removed, which resulted in the saloon having a 360 view as well as significant weight savings. This also meant that the bridge deck is now an expansive lounge area, so important when doing this kind of charter work. To make taking care of the guests a little easier, the large galley is also located on the bridge deck making service a little more inclusive and more appropriate for this style of charter.

All accommodation was moved to the hulls. With the emphasis changed from a single charter group to multiple charter guests, the cabin layout was carefully designed to offer each party nearly identically-sized cabins.

Once again, a crew of four takes care of the guests and depending on individual requirements, the Explorer 760 can be built to have 10 or 12 guests in five or six en-suite cabins.

Tranquillity is the first of the Explorer range. It was built for a Caribbean-based customer who already has a successful charter business and wanted a bigger and more luxurious yacht to offer.

Visiting *Tranquillity* at the V&A, the first thing you notice are the clean lines and the distinctive sweep of the coach roof. What really makes the Matrix yachts stand out is the graceful sweep of the upper decks and the large windows on either side of the coachroof. The Explorer 760 has three distinctive vertical windows in the hulls that give fantastic views from the cabins, and at the front of the saloon, you have a completely unobstructed view of everything!

There is a separate walkway at the back of the bridge deck as well as a large dive/tender platform that can be lowered into the water at the touch of a button. This walkway allows the crew to launch the large tender without disturbing the guests.

Located across the bridge deck and under cover is a large teak dining table, perfect for meals in quiet anchorages or while on passage. For those guests wanting to spend time in the sun, it's up the ladder to the fly bridge where another lounging area is located, behind the heart of the sailing part of the yacht. Helm and all sail controls are located up here and the yacht is designed to be run by a single crew member. To accomplish this, the genoa is roller furling and the mainsail features a Matrix-designed in-boom furling system. Once again, visibility is unobstructed and operation of this yacht is simple and efficient. Both levels have been designed for easy living and there is great storage and refrigeration.

Finishes are completely custom and this client chose a dark wood interior with white walls and grey cushions. Clearly, emphasis has been placed on long term durability and as in all Matrix yachts, the quality of the cabinetry and finishes is superb.

Entering through the aft sliding doors, the galley is located on the port side and is simply massive. With multiple groups of guests and four crew, the chef is going to be busy here, and it is clearly positioned in the heart of the yacht. To starboard, there is a lounge area where everyone can easily sit which will make dive and adventure planning easy.

Guest cabins are located in each hull with a spacious double cabin aft on either side. On *Tranquillity*, the owner opted for three double cabins on the starboard side with the two forward cabins having beds that can be separated into two singles. In the port hull, there are also three cabins with the forward two each having two single beds. Each cabin has its own en-suite head and shower.

Finishes in all the cabins are to a very high quality and emphasis has been placed on ease of maintenance. Walls are simply faired and painted and cabinetry is the same dark wood as in the rest of the boat. Floors are panelled wood.

Crew accommodation is forward in each hull. The Captain's cabin is located to port. This cabin has a loft bed and office as well as the laundry area. Both cabins have their own en-suite heads and showers. On yachts this size, it is common for the crew to consist of either a couple and two crew or two couples, and the crew cabins reflect this. They're large, private, and easily accessed cabins, seldom found on sailboats under 50m.

Once again, the Matrix Yachts team has produced a brilliant yacht, exactly to the owner's requirements. ⚓

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	Specifications
LOA	21.85m (71.8ft)
Beam	10.5m (34.5ft)
Draft	1.5m (5ft)
Air draft	28.25m (93ft)
Headroom (minimum)	2m (6.5ft)
Weight (empty)	23,000kg
Fresh water	3,000 litres (790 gal)
Engines	2 x Yanmar 177kW (240hp)
Cruise at 90%	13 knots
Diesel	2,000 litres (526 gal)
Sail area upwind	271m ² (2,927 ft ²)
Sail area downwind	466m ² (5,033ft ²)



Pure luxury - pure tranquility. The new Explorer 760.



The luxury Master cabin with en-suite heads.



A luxury twin cabin with en-suite heads.



The Captain's cabin with office (loft with double bed above) and private heads.



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